Read pages 40 to 58 of *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander, then use whatever resources you have to answer the questions below. To understand where power lies today, you must understand where it resided yesterday. You might even think of power as a fixed amount; someone always has some of it somewhere. Some have more than others.

1. Bottom of page 43. What was the significance of geography in the attitudes regarding fair treatment across race?

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1. Look at the discussion on page 47. What do you think *personally* about the roles of “race” and “class” in the context of power?

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1. On page 48, Professor Alexander writes about people in power who have developed a “strategy of exploiting racial hostility or resentment for political gain without making explicit reference to race.” Give an example of this:

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1. Give an example when the same is done *with* explicit reference to race.

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1. On pages 52 and 53, Alexander talks about the press. Why would the press write aggressively about the “drug war”? How would that benefit the press?

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1. How does Professor Alexander evaluate President Bill Clinton as a leader of the United States” [pages 56 and 57]? What was his record, according to Alexander, in supporting civil rights for all?

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1. Someday, you will read George Orwell’s *1984*. In that fiction book, the people in power pretend to be at war all the time. In *The New Jim Crow*, Alexander talks about President Johnson’s “war on poverty” and President Reagan’s “war on drugs.” Today, we have W. Bush’s “war on terror.” Why do people with power always claim to be at war? Who benefits? How does “being at war” help people in power stay in power?

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1. Comment on the drive for power and the use of race—or any other criterion—to gain and maintain power. Cite two sources informally (author and title) [textbook is good source].

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